

Secretary's Innovation Award for the Empowerment of Women and Girls: Call for Concept Papers

Secretary Clinton announced the Secretary's Innovation Award for the Empowerment of Women and Girls <http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/innovation/index.htm> on April 28, 2010. This award seeks to find and bring to scale the most pioneering approaches to the political, economic and social empowerment of women and girls around the globe. Each year, two awardees will be selected by a prominent panel of jury and will receive up to \$500,000 to expand on their innovations. Concept papers can be submitted either by individuals or by non-governmental organizations. There are no restrictions as to citizenship or country of residency.

Concept papers are due by June 21, 2010 to SGWIRFPInnovation@state.gov.

Funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, the award is part of the State Department's continuing emphasis on public-private partnerships, and is administered by its Office of Global Women's Issues. The award, and the office, is founded on the premise that the major economic, security, governance and environmental challenges of our time cannot be solved without the full participation of women at all levels of society. The Rockefeller Foundation, as part of its mission to expand opportunity and promote more equitable growth, seeks to identify innovative approaches that can be scaled to address these challenges.

The purpose of this announcement is to invite interested parties to submit a concept paper that describes innovations that have proven to have positive impact on the lives of women and girls politically, socially, or economically. The concept paper should: (1) describe the innovation, (2) how it has been successful, and, (3) how it can be supported and enlarged with additional financial support to empower women and girls in their communities.

All concept papers will be reviewed by State Department staff, and selected applicants will be invited to submit full proposals. The full proposal will include detailed implementation and budget plans. A jury panel, co-chaired by Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Melanne Verveer and Rockefeller Foundation President Judith Rodin, will assist in the selection of two award winners in 2010. The final awardees will be invited to attend an award ceremony at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C., and each will receive a grant of up to \$500,000 to fund their project.

For the complete text of this invitation including the requirements and specific instruction on how to prepare Concept Papers, go to: <http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/innovation/index.htm>